

R. PELTON BUILDERS, INC

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Dear Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee members,

My name is Stephen Pelton. My wife and I run a home efficiency company which performs energy assessments for CL&P as well as UI through the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF). We also are doing weatherization work for the local CAP agencies including CRT, Access, ABCD and New Opportunities as well as being authorized installers for Home Depot at-Home-Services.

We have worked closely with Yolanda Rivera of the Job Funnel and local workforce boards to find qualified candidates to help us in the growth of our business and **we have hired 9 people in the past 3 months**. Congressman Larson's office has called us and told us that he has included our company in his speeches regarding job creation due to the ARRA funded weatherization programs.

In interviewing a lot of these weatherization candidates we have found that some of them have the background and right attitude to become home energy auditors. We have since assimilated those candidates into the home audit side of our business which is funded by the CEEF. We have worked with DSS to help get training and currently have a new hire in the state sponsored BPI course. Our goal is to retain all of the employees we hire even after the 3 year ARRA funded weatherization programs have ended. In order to do this, we need to be sure that the legislature isn't going to be looking at tapping into the CEEF every time there is a budget shortfall. Each time we add a crew onto our home audit side we need to purchase seven thousand dollars worth of equipment and front 2 months worth of labor and materials as well as purchase a van and insure it. If there is a question about future support of green jobs we will have a hard time justifying such expenditures.

The programs funded by CEEF are helping to solidify the growth of the energy efficiency industry. This industry is now in its infancy and is expected to have parabolic growth. The interesting part about energy efficient upgrades is that they have an immediate return on investment.

The Home Energy Solutions program is truly a program that pays for itself. Our BPI certified building analysts give home owners an unbiased 3rd party opinion of their home and the best ways to save on electric use as well as heating and cooling costs. Our techs promote state sponsored programs like the CHIF loans as well as guiding low-income home owners to the WRAP and UI Helps programs. We have also found safety issues and helped homeowners correct those issues. Some of these problems could have killed the residents of the homes audited by either fire or carbon monoxide poisoning.

The programs offered by CEEF are working. The intent of the CEEF is being met and jobs are being created. To even threaten the funding has caused us to freeze hiring and we hope that the uncertainty surrounding the funding will be cleared up soon so we can plan our business to either grow or take appropriate action to protect the survival of the company.

We hope the legislature will do the right thing and let the intended purpose of the CEEF continue without immediate or future threats to its funding.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Stephen Pelton